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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 19 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose a copy of the declaration on Somalia made by the Special European Council of the European Community at its meeting at Birmingham on 16 October 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 87 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

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ANNEX

Declaration on Somalia made by the Special European Council of the European Community at its meeting at Birmingham on 16 October 1992

The European Council expressed its deep concern over the appalling situation in Somalia and the continuing deaths and starvation. It condemned the renewed fighting and called on the parties involved to observe an immediate cease-fire to allow the rapid distribution of aid to the people in desperate need.

It expressed its full support for the efforts of Ambassador Sahnoun on behalf of the United Nations to achieve a national reconciliation as the basis for a peaceful solution and for the Belgian contribution to the United Nations force. It welcomed the outcome of the United Nations Conference at Geneva on 12 and 13 October, and the creation of a 100-day programme to deliver aid to the worst affected areas.

The European Council notes the contribution being provided by the Community and its member States to relieve the crisis: in addition to other aid, over 100,000 tonnes of food aid is already being sent. Member States are also contributing some 100 million ECU bilaterally.

The European Council called for the rapid deployment of United Nations troops to the areas where they are needed. It asked the Presidency to consult the United Nations Secretary-General on ways to expedite these deployments.